

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-14 and 16-30 stand in the present application, claims 1, 4 and 16 having been amended. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. As noted above, Applicants have amended the title to correct the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract because of a technical deficiency in its drafting. As noted above, Applicants have amended the Abstract in order to correct the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 13 and 16-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As noted above, Applicants have corrected all of the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner with respect to claims 1, 4 and 16 and accordingly, the Examiner's § 112, second paragraph, rejection of the claims is believed to have been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16-20, 23-27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being anticipated by Cox and has rejected claims 6-7, 13, 21-22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's §§ 102 and 103 rejections of the claims.

Applicants' invention is directed to a network termination apparatus which provides a connection to an external telecommunications network. The term "network termination" refers to the demarcation point between the private and public domains.

On the other hand, Cox describes a wall mounting plate that does not provide a termination point for an external communication network. Applicants' independent claims 1, 5 and 16 clearly require a network termination wall plug which includes termination means for terminating an exterior telecommunications line connected to a telecommunications network and connection means for receiving a connector of an interior customer telecommunications equipment and/or as having circumferential irregularities so as to be received within and frictionally engage a bore in a wall, etc.

Cox simply does not teach or suggest the above described network termination wall plug. Indeed, there is nothing in Cox which suggests that his device serves as a network termination point for an external communications network, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Instead, the Cox device provides a socket for a low-voltage electrical connection to be made with, e.g., a telephone.

Accordingly, for example, the elements of present claim 1 directed to a "termination means to terminate an exterior telecommunications line connected to the telecommunications network" and provision of "a network terminating interconnection between the customer equipment and the telecommunications network" are not taught or suggested in Cox. Finally, it is noted that the "cable" (30) identified by the Examiner in the Office Action, is not described as an "exterior telecommunications line" but rather as an "electrical supply." See Cox at column 3, lines 23-24. For the above reasons, independent claims 1, 5, and 16, and their respective dependent claims, are believed to patentably define over Cox.

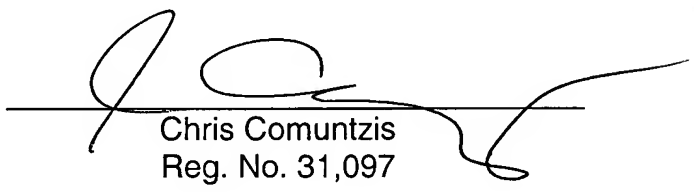
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June 13, 2008

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1014 and 16-30, standing in the application be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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